

EF

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/768,394	KAWABATA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Terry L. Englund	2816	

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**  
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amdt/Dwgs (Apr 29, 2005).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4-20 (now renumbered as 1-17, respectively for printing purposes).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 April 2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

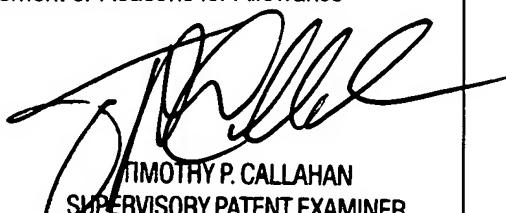
\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

  
 TIMOTHY P. CALLAHAN  
 SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to the applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 15, line 16: changed "the 'output" to --the output--.

This change corrects an obvious type error, wherein the original version of the claim did not have the apostrophe type symbol prior to "output."

### **RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT/DRAWINGS**

The amendment and drawings submitted on Apr 29, 2005 have been reviewed and considered with the following results:

The drawing corrections, and corresponding replacement sheets, have overcome the objections to Figs. 5-6, which have now been withdrawn.

The new title overcame the original, generic type title, and that objection has also been withdrawn.

The cancellation of claims 1-3 rendered their prior art rejections moot.

Amended claim 11 overcame its rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Therefore, that rejection has now been withdrawn.

During a review of all the active claims, a minor oversight was noted within claim 15. This was addressed/corrected by the Examiner's Amendment described above.

There is now no known objection or rejection remaining within the present application.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art references reviewed and considered shows or discloses the semiconductor device as recited within independent claims 4, 9, 15, and 17. Although numerous references show various circuitry that allows a prescribed potential, applied to a semiconductor region (e.g. the back-gate, body, bulk, or well) of a transistor, to be switched between two different potentials, none of the references shows the potential generator circuit (understood to be used at one type of switching circuit for providing the appropriate potential) as recited. More specifically, none of the references shows or discloses the relationships between the second/third transistors as recited, wherein the second transistor is coupled between the second power supply terminal and the output terminal, and its gate is coupled to the output of either an inverter circuit (as recited within claims 4 and 15) or a comparator circuit (as recited within claims 9 and 17); and wherein the third transistor has its source and gate coupled to the first power supply terminal, and its drain connected to the output terminal. Since there is no motivation to modify or combine any prior art reference(s) to ensure all the claimed limitations between the second/third transistors, and between the second transistor and the inverter (or comparator) are met, the claims are deemed patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

Claims 4-20 are allowed, and have been renumbered as 1-17, respectively for printing purposes. The renumbering takes into account the cancellation of claims 1-3.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the

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issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Terry L. Englund whose telephone number is (571) 272-1743. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 7 AM to 3 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (571) 272-1740.

The new central official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Terry L. Englund

18 May 2005

Appl. No. 10/768,394  
Amdt. Dated April 29, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 81790.0310  
Customer No. 26021

**Amendments to the Drawings**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 5 and 6. This sheet, which also includes Figs. 1 and 2, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1, 2, 5 and 6. In Figs. 5 and 6, the legend "Prior Art" is added.

Approved  
5.16.05  
TLE

Attachments:      Replacement Sheet  
                         Annotated Sheet Showing Changes



Approved  
5.16.05  
TLE

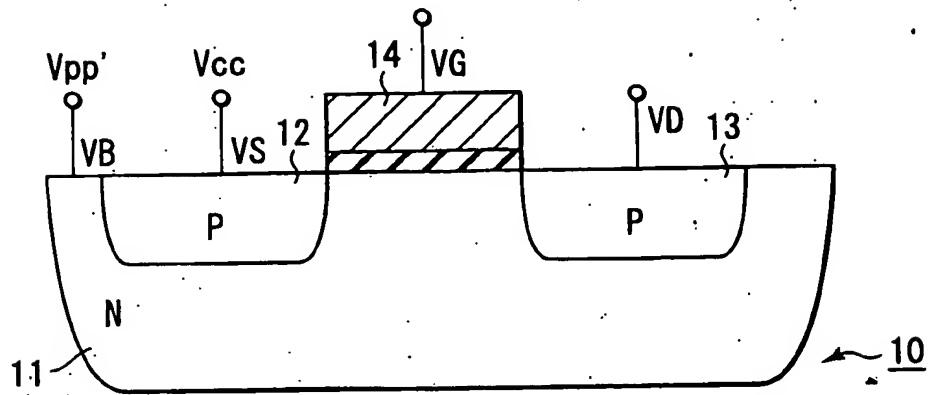


FIG. 2

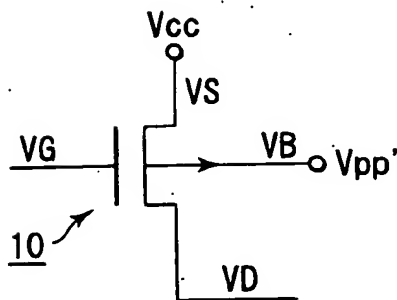


FIG. 1

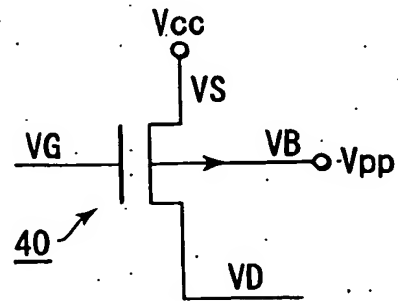


FIG. 5

Prior Art

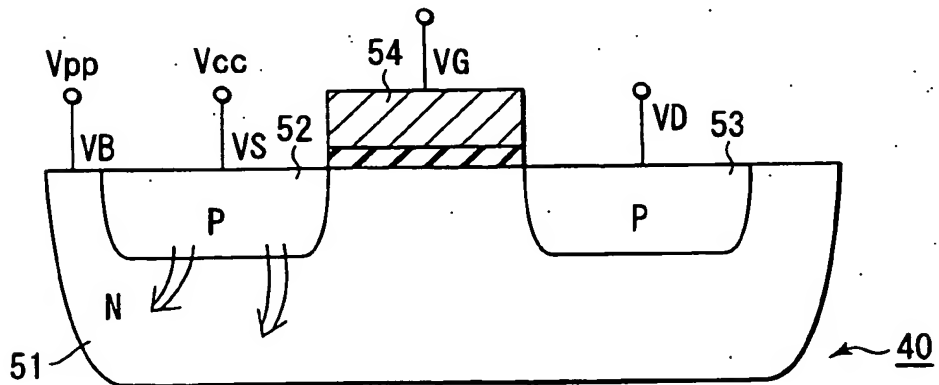


FIG. 6

Prior Art

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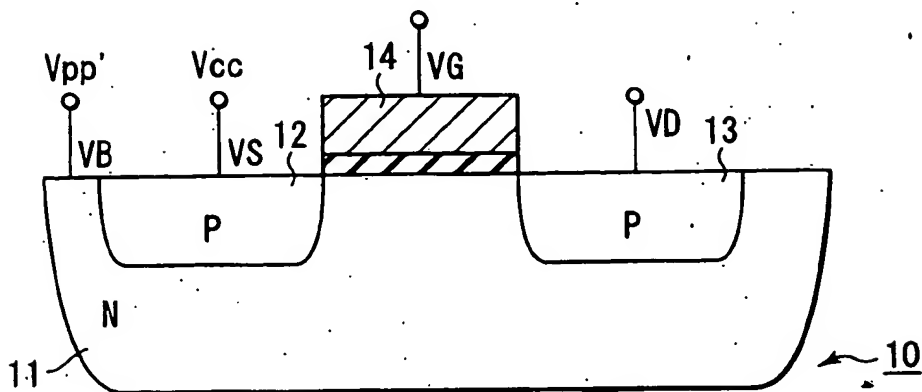


FIG. 2

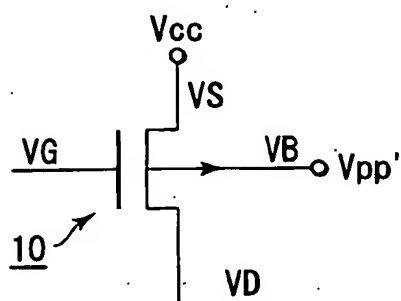


FIG. 1

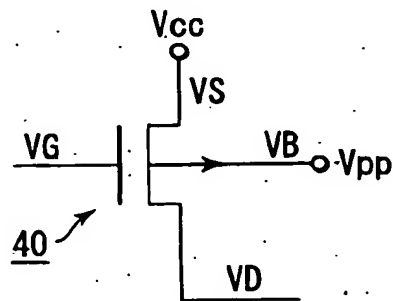


FIG. 5

Prior Art

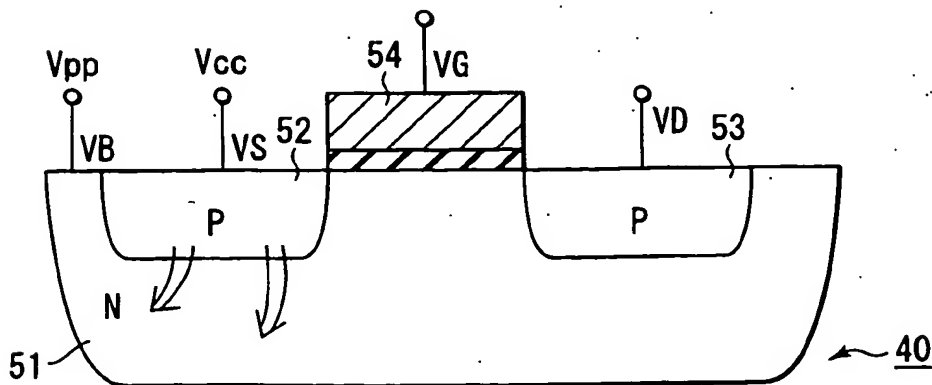


FIG. 6

Prior Art